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Luck Money.
"Handel" is the first money received
for the day ("luck money"), that which
is given back "for luck" by the seller
to the buyer. Spitting upon it is the
essence of the whole transaction, and
it is practiced today, not only all over
England, but all over the world. We
know from many classical authors
what virtue was believed by ancient
Greeks and Romans (see Potter, "Ar-
chaic, Graec." 1, 417) to lie in the
act, and there is also abundant evi-
dence of the belief all through the mid-
dle ages, and now in the twentieth
century it remains as strong as ever.
Otto Jahn says: "I have often seen the
fishwives of Ellerbeck, when they had
got handgeld from my mother, how
they spat upon it. They say that it
brings them besunderes gluck. They
will not tell the reason. Certainly it is
done to keep off witchcraft." The same
thing is done by modern Egyptians and
by Italians. At Posilippo I gave a
penny to a deaf mute. He first spat
on it, then put it to his forehead, and
lastly devoutly crossed himself with it,
precisely (except the crossing) as is
done by modern Egyptians. Even in
faroff Celebes the natives spit in the
same way as a protective rite.—Notes
and Queries.

When Watches Were New.

At first the watch was about the size
of a dessert plate. It had weights and
was used as a "pocket clock." The
earliest known use of the modern name
occurs in the record of 1552, which
mentions that Edward VI. had "one
larum or watch of iron, the case being
likewise of iron gilt, with two plum-
mets of lead." The first watches may
readily be supposed to have been of
rude execution. The first great im-
provement, the substitution of springs
for weights, was in 1550. The earliest
springs were not coiled, but only
straight pieces of steel. Early watches
had only one hand, and, being wound
up twice a day, they could not be ex-
pected to keep time nearer than fifteen
or twenty minutes in the twelve hours.
The dials were of silver or brass. The
cases had no crystals, but opened at
the back and front and were four or
five inches in diameter. A plain watch
cost the equivalent of \$1,000 in our cur-
rency, and after one was ordered it
took a year to make it.

Trolling For Tarpon.

It is not easy to hook a tarpon while
trolling, for his mouth is very hard,
says Julian A. Dimock in Country Life
in America, and much skill may doubt-
less here be shown. In the playing of
the fish the work is about the same as in
still fishing save that more care must be
used, as the hook is probably not firmly
imbedded. An old fisherman told me that
he liked to be sure of his fish and so
preferred still fishing, but to my mind
it is one of the objections to that meth-
od. Another and stronger objection is
the disturbance of my feelings in think-
ing that I am pulling against a fish's
"in'ards." If the line does break the
chance of the victim's being able to
free himself from the hook is problem-
atical, while in trolling it is the work
of a minute after the strain is off the
line until a sore mouth is the only
symptom remaining.

The Greek Symposium.

The Greek symposium was literally
"drinking together," but before the
drinking fully began there was a ban-
quet, more or less elaborate, as the
wealth and taste of the host might dic-
tate. The guests came in their best.
Even old Socrates, Plato tells us in his
"Dialogue" on the subject, was not
above taking a little extra pains when
he was invited out. Some one met him
one day in the market place, "fresh
from the bath and sandaled," and as
the sight of the sandals was unusual,
he asked him whither he was going
that he was so fine. "To a banquet at
Agathon's," he replied, "and I have put
on my finery because he is a fine crea-
ture. What say you to going with me
unbidden?"

Properly Billed Meat.

To boil meat so as to retain the juices
and soluble salts and yet cook it suf-
ficiently it should be plunged into boil-
ing water and boiled rapidly for about
ten minutes. After this fast cooking
the kettle must be pushed over to the
back of the fire, where its contents will
simmer gently. This tends to coagu-
late the outer rind of the meat so that
the juices cannot escape. If meat is
treated in this manner the inside will
be found juicy and tender, but if the
meat is allowed to boil it will be found
hard and chippy, the goodness having
all boiled out of it.

Britain's Oldest Office.

The oldest office under the crown is
that of lord high steward, which was
in existence before the time of Edward
the Confessor—indeed, some authori-
ties say that it was instituted by Offa
in 757. For a long period this official
was second only to the king, and the
office was for some time hereditary in
certain noble families.—Tit-Bits.

His Expectation.

"I suppose," said his friend, "that
when the investigation takes place you
will be represented by counsel."
"Yes," said the statesman, "and I
suppose I'll be misrepresented by the
opposing counsel."

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